

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

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TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, BR

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR A U.S.-BRAZILIAN SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REFERENCE: BRASILIA 5244

FOR AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

1. WE APPRECIATE RECEIVING EMBASSY PROPOSAL SET OUT IN REF ON HOW UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SECRETARY BUTZ AND MINISTER PAULINELLI ON COOPERATION IN EXPANDING THE WORLD MARKET FOR SOYBEANS MIGHT BE CARRIED OUT. AS AN INITIAL STEP, WE COULD AGREE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A U.S.-BRAZIL SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP WITH THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

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(A) INFORMATION EXCHANGE, (B) MARKET DEVELOPMENT, AND

(C) TECHNICAL EXCHANGE. SINCE THIS WOULD BE PRIMARILY A TECHNICAL GROUP, WE DO NOT SEE THE NEED TO ORGANIZE THIS UNDER THE EXISTING TRADE CONSULTATIVE SUBGROUP--ALTHOUGH THE SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD, OF COURSE, FALL UNDER THE OVERALL CONSULTATIVE AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO BRAZIL EARLY THIS YEAR. WE SUGGEST A MEETING BETWEEN BRAZILIAN AND U.S. AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF THE PROPOSED GROUP. THIS MEETING COULD BE COMBINED WITH

PENDING VISIT OF RUBENS VALENTINI, ASSISTANT TO MINISTER PAULINELLI, TO U.S. IN AUGUST TO ADDRESS THE AMERICAN SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION CONVENTION--HOPEFULLY IN WASHINGTON AFTER THE CONVENTION.

2. PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON GROUP SUGGEST BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION. ESTABLISHING OF GROUP, SELECTING MEMBERSHIP, AND ARRIVING AT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF RESPONSIBILITIES NATURALLY POSES CERTAIN PROBLEMS, PARTICULARLY IF THE GROUP SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GET INVOLVED IN PROMOTING STABLE GROWTH IN WORLD SOYBEAN OUTPUT. THIS COULD PRODUCE SHARP CRITICISM AND REPERCUSSIONS FROM U.S. SOYBEAN GROWERS. LIKEWISE IN THE TRADE POLICY AREA, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THAT THE PROPOSED SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP WOULD PREEMPT THE WORK OF THE EXISTING TRADE CONSULTATIVE SUBGROUP REGARDING TRADE POLICY, INCLUDING THAT DEALING WITH SOYBEANS. NEVERTHELESS, WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS NEW FORUM COULD BE A MEANS FOR THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND TO SEEK INFORMAL CLARIFICATION ON MATTERS OF CONCERN IN THIS AREA.

3. IN THE AREA OF EXCHANGING ECONOMIC INFORMATION, WE ENVISAGE INTERCHANGE OF DATA ON WORLD SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR OILSEEDS AND PRODUCTS, MONTHLY TRADE STATISTICS, PRICE TRENDS, COSTS, ETC. PROPOSED GROUP COULD ALSO MAKE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION IN THE MARKET DEVELOPMENT AREA. ASSISTANCE FROM BRAZIL IN PROMOTING WORLD SOYBEAN CONSUMPTION NEEDS TO BE FULLY EXPLORED. A POTENTIAL AREA OF COOPERATION WOULD BE IN ASSISTING BRAZIL IN DEVELOPING LARGER MARKETS AT HOME FOR SOY MEAL, SOY OIL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SOY PROTEIN FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION. FINALLY WE COULD ENVISAGE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND VISITS BY BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS TO OUR PRODUCTION AREAS TO CONFER WITH OUR RESEARCHERS AND RESEARCH STATIONS.

4. EMBASSY CABLE QUITE DETAILED AND THIS RESPONSE DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS ALL POINTS RAISED. OUR RECOMMENDATION IS TO APPROACH THE GOB, INDICATING OUR INTEREST

IN ESTABLISHING U.S.-BRAZILIAN SOYBEAN CONSULTATIVE
GROUP. INITIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BRAZIL MAY BE HELD IN
WASHINGTON, D.C., AFTER VALENTINI'S VISIT TO THE ASA
CONVENTION AUGUST 9-11. KISSINGER

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